

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 177**

LCO No. 2939

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY DECLINING
STUDENT ENROLLMENT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study declining student enrollment in the state. The task force shall
3 be responsible for collecting and analyzing state-wide school-age
4 demographic data for the purposes of considering possible changes to
5 the laws regarding state funding for education and the geographic
6 boundaries of school districts. The task force shall conduct a study that
7 examines state-wide trends in the movement of the school-age
8 population and enrollment in public schools. Such study shall include,
9 but need not be limited to, (1) an examination of and explanation for
10 the causes of the reduction of the school-age population in the state, (2)
11 a determination of whether such reduction is the result of a naturally
12 occurring cyclical pattern, and if so, the expected duration of such
13 reduction, (3) an examination of trends in the movement of the school-
14 age population into and out of rural, suburban and urban areas, (4) an
15 analysis of such reduction on future investments and expenditures in
16 education in the state, and (5) recommendations for changes in state
17 law to allow for flexibility in the expansion or regionalization of
18 existing school districts.

19 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

20 (1) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
21 one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of
22 Boards of Education, one of whom is a professor at a public institution
23 of higher education in the state with expertise in real estate and urban
24 economic studies and one of whom is a representative of a regional
25 council of government;

26 (2) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
27 of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools,
28 one of whom is a certified teacher in a public school and one of whom
29 is a representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities;

30 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
31 Representatives, who is a representative of the Connecticut
32 Association of Public School Superintendents;

33 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a
34 person with expertise in demography;

35 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
36 Representatives, who is a person with expertise in economics;

37 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a
38 person with expertise in workforce development;

39 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
40 and

41 (8) A representative of the Connecticut State Data Center at The
42 University of Connecticut.

43 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
44 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
45 of the General Assembly.

46 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
47 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
48 filled by the appointing authority.

49 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
50 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
51 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
52 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
53 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

54 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
55 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
56 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

57 (g) Not later than January 1, 2017, the task force shall submit an
58 interim report and not later than January 1, 2018, a final report on its
59 findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the
60 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
61 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
62 statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date it submits such
63 report or January 1, 2018, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section